



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

December 20, 2005

# News Release

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

*Three computers seized at his home contained thousands of child porn images and movies*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A Nokomis man was charged here yesterday with possessing thousands of images of child pornography and ordered to home confinement, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Rodger A. Heaton, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Elisha Pasdeck, 31, of Nokomis, Ill., has been charged with possessing child pornography. Pasdeck appeared in federal court in Springfield yesterday afternoon. U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore ordered home confinement for Pasdeck, to include electronic monitoring and removal of Internet service from his residence. Other restrictions include: restricted telephone access, no contact with minors (under 18 years old), and monitoring by U.S. Probation officers.

The affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, which charges Pasdeck with possessing child pornography, alleges that ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at Pasdeck's Nokomis residence on June 1. According to this affidavit, ICE agents seized three computers and related computer equipment and found several thousand images of child pornography and movies, as well as correspondence between Pasdeck and a male minor from Canada.

Possessing child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The Nokomis Police Department and the Canadian Border Services Agency assisted ICE in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress is prosecuting this case.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Pasdeck's arrest is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human

traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,800 individuals nationwide, including more than 340 in Illinois.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

### **# ICE #**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*